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SIX LETTERS

ADDRESSED TO THE EDITOR OF THE OXFORD HERALD,

ON THE

SUBJECT OF AN ADDRESS

PRESENTED BY CERTAIN

NOBLE AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED INDIVIDUALS

TO THE

HEADS OF COLLEGES,

IN NOVEMBER, 1845,

AND NOW PRINTED PRIVATELY, (NOT PUBLISHED,)

FOR DISTRIBUTION AMONG A

LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONS MOST INTERESTED.

OXFORD:

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1846.

PREFACE.

THE first of these letters was printed in the "Oxford University Herald," of Saturday, Nov. 29, 1845, and met with such a measure of private approbation, as to induce the Author rapidly to throw off in succession the five following letters, which he equally intended for the same publication. But the anxious desire of the Editor to avoid a discussion which might, in its progress, give offence to the University Authorities, induced the Author to adopt his present course, and send forth the series (for he cannot call it publication,) with no other motive or thought than that of doing, if possible, in private, some little practical, though secret good to his beloved "Alma Mater."

C.

ADDRESS TO THE HEBDOMADAL BOARD.

Considerable efforts have lately been made in this country for the diffusion of civil and spiritual knowledge, whether at home or abroad. Schools have been instituted for the lower and middle classes, churches built and endowed, missionary societies established, further Schools founded, as at Marlborough and Fleetwood, for the sons of poor Clergy and others; and, again, associations for the provision of additional Ministers. But between these Schools on the one hand, and on the other the ministry which requires to be augmented, there is a chasm which needs to be filled. Our Universities take up education where our Schools leave it; yet no one can say that they have been strengthened or extended, whether for Clergy or Laity, in proportion to the growing population of the country, its increasing empire, or deepening responsibilities.

We are anxious to suggest, that the link which we find thus missing in the chain of improvement should be supplied by rendering Academical education accessible to the sons of parents whose incomes are too narrow for the scale of expenditure at present prevailing among the junior members of the University of Oxford, and that this should be done through the addition of new departments to existing Colleges, or, if necessary, by the foundation of new Collegiate bodies. We have learned, on what we consider unquestionable information, that in such institutions, if the furniture were provided by the College, and public meals alone were permitted, to the entire exclusion of private entertainments in the rooms of the Students, the annual College payments for board, lodging, and tuition, might be reduced to 60*l.* at most; and that, if frugality were enforced as the condition of membership, the Student's entire expenditure might be brought within the compass of 80*l.* yearly.

If such a plan of improvement be entertained by the authorities of Oxford, the details of its execution would remain to be considered. On these we do not venture to enter; but desire to record our readiness, whenever the matter may proceed further, to aid, by personal exertions or pecuniary contributions, in the promotion of a design which the exigencies of the country so clearly seem to require.

Sandon, Ashley, R. Grosvenor, W. Gladstone, T. D. Acland, Philip Pusey, T. Sothron, Westminster, Carnarvon, T. Acland, Bart., W. Bramstone, Lincoln, Sidney Herbert, Canning, Mahon, W. B. Baring, J. Nicholl, (Judge Advocate,) W. J. James, S. R. Glynne, J. E. Denison, Wilson Patten, R. Vernon Smith, S. Wilberforce, R. Jelf, W. W. Hale, W. Heathcote, Edward Berens, J. Wooley, Hon. Horace Powys, W. Herbert, (Dean of Manchester,) G. Moberley, A. C. Tait.—*Church and State Gazette.*

SIX LETTERS.

To the Editor of the Oxford Herald.

SIR,—Upon reading in your *Herald* of Saturday last, the 8th, the copy of an address to the Hebdomadal Board at Oxford, put forth and signed by many influential and justly esteemed names of all parties and shades of opinion in Church matters, my first impulse was to offer you on the instant some remarks as to the proposed objects, and questionable averments of that address, which might call attention to its general drift and bearing, even if they failed in themselves to make any striking impression on your readers. But upon consideration, I thought it wiser and more respectful to wait for the lapse of a week in case your journal of to-day should contain some authorized reply or notice from the Board to whom the address was presented. On the score of delicacy and ancient respect to that Board, I feel myself now released from the duty of further silence, and enter the lists armed only with the right conferred on me by the *private and confidential* communication of my name to you, Mr. Editor, to assert that, insignificant as that name is, and utterly unworthy to appear published in the same cause with so many noble and right honourable champions of academical education, I yet bring to the question more perhaps of actual and hard-earned experience in many of its minute and necessary details than all of them put together, not excluding even the two last of the distinguished list, and add to my experience a measure of personal interest hardly to be exceeded by that of the most

anxious and unsatisfied parent in the whole community. I go heartily along with the framers of the address to the middle of their second paragraph, in the avowal of all the deficiencies which our present academical system suffers. I acknowledge the chasm which requires to be filled up. I think, (perhaps it is mere vanity) that I see better than any of them, or at least better than I infer from any part of their address, how that chasm may most simply and easily be supplied, but I differ *toto cælo* from them as to the advisability of any schemes which are likely to be developed in any mere University measure for the relief of the existing want.

The mode of relief which they contemplate, and which alone Convocation can grant, would appear derivable from one of two measures, the foundation of new collegiate bodies *in Oxford* on a cheap and economical scale of expenditure, or the addition of new departments to existing Colleges, the return, *i. e.* in principle at least, to the old system of Servitors, a class of youths who miserably disappoint the only society in which they are still tolerated, and who would, if generally established, represent to us only a caste degraded in education, manners, and habits of social life, an eye sore to the academical arena, and the germ of embittered divisions or foolish aristocratical notions where all *ought* to be unanimity and equality as far as the state of society renders it practicable. That which I most regret in the address is the very vague and ambiguous statement of some pecuniary calculation as to the annual College payments "*at most* being 60*l.*" under certain circumstances, and "*the entire expenditure*" of a student being brought within 80*l.* yearly. Do the framers of the address mean really that 80*l.* shall cover a *twelvemonth's* board, lodging, tuition, books, clothes, and travelling expenses of a young man? Will they then kindly state the grounds of their *unquestionable* information, and add some items, or will they tell us that 80*l.* might be made to include the mere College expenses of dining, room-rent, and tuition? In this latter case the whole address becomes a mere fallacy, for every body knows at present, that the College bills rarely exceed this latter sum, and that it is not the expensive scale of College bills, but the scantiness of the

provision made for comfort and study within the walls, which drives so many to such dangerous and extravagant schemes abroad for a supply of deficiencies.

But allowing the justice of the calculations made, when they are explained to us, it will never do, I suspect, to have an influx of young men into the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge who shall be derided and looked down upon by their cotemporaries, or who, tolerated out of compassion, and taken into society, will for ever lie under the strongest temptation to perpetuate habits of the worst *species* of extravagance, that which is generated from the spirit of vanity and emulation; verily this *last* error would I fear, be worse, and spread its branches wider, because lower and deeper, than the first.

Equally wide of the mark do I deem the principles of a plan which would introduce so dangerous a species of *moral* discipline for young men varying from the ages of 17 to 22, who should be absolutely interdicted from all society but that of a silent meal taken in common once a day; for as to society between Englishmen without a glass of wine, or even a cup of tea, the thing is proverbially inconceivable. The system of government which must effect the objects thus proposed must be one of *sheer vexatious espionage*, under the veriest despot or martinet, such as would deprive the young (if successful,) of all *liberty*, and therefore of all *self-control*, of all sympathy, too, with each other, and experience of human nature, up to the very moment when they are called upon to go forth in the most sacred and important of professions, not only to preach, but also to illustrate by example the very qualities to which they have been hitherto made sedulously strangers. No: in Oxford or in Cambridge the trial would deplorably fail, and the ultimate failure be only the more painful, if preceded by partial success. If I am asked whether nothing can be done *towards* the object, I say, certainly *much*; but not by the Board of Heads, as such, or by Convocation, as a body. That which is practicable, is that which may and must be done by single Heads of Houses, each in his own society, acting with firmness, patience, perseverance, and, above all, by *kindness of manner*, not only on the faulty habits of the young

men themselves, but on the infinitely more lax and dangerous habits of the parents of the present age. The most perfect system of discipline will not set all right, and teach the young their duty at school and college, until their family duties are better understood—until the parents *maintain discipline at home*, and lead their children to understand that the authority of Masters and Principals is in fact the *parental* authority itself delegated to them, instead of holding up to contempt and ridicule, as is now too often the case, the laws of the society to which they send their sons, and the persons and the authority of those who are commissioned to hold rule therein. On the other hand, the worst and most defective system in the world will effect little injury when the seeds of obedience and strict moral discipline have been previously sown.

There are Heads of Colleges, who by their position in Oxford, their profound learning, and their tenderness of heart as parents, might lead all the rest by their example, if they could courteously enter with pleasurable interest into the pursuits of their young men. To them I would respectfully but earnestly say,—Begin by increasing the mere internal expenses; raise considerably both battels and tuition; and, instead of issuing an interdict against particular trifles, constantly and easily evaded, take care that the food, both for mind and body, within your walls is such, that there be no temptation, or at least no excuse, to seek it out of doors. Next, by an enlargement of your collegiate apparatus, include all such expenses, and as many more as are either reasonable or perfectly venial, under the head of *College expenses* which must be punctually defrayed each term, and let the two or three items of clothes, books, and travelling expenses, be all which need be left as a fluctuating account between the youth *in statu pupillari* and his father. Let your only sumptuary law be the *prohibition of DEBT*: and let the receipts for his last term's expenditure be as necessary to the continuance in College of an Undergraduate, as the *testamur* of his examiners at *Little-go*, after a certain standing in terms. You will greatly reduce the total of University expenses; or, rather, expenses at the University; and though you may not introduce a *cheap system*, you will cut off the greater part of the

present grounds of distrust and dissatisfaction. Let Oxford and Cambridge still continue the natural and fitting resort of the hundreds (I might say thousands) of young men, whose circumstances are sufficiently flourishing to defray honestly all the expenses which shall keep up to the eyes of a perhaps mistaken world, the undefinable union between the triple character of Gentleman, Scholar, and Christian.

But for the CHASM,—the demands of the Church for a more humble and frugal order in her ministry, taken more frequently (if not indiscriminately) from those ranks for whom it is her especial boast to make provision—what plan so natural and simple as the foundation of new collegiate establishments in each of the Cathedral cities which circle round Oxford and Cambridge as centres, and from which henceforward, by improved travelling, within an hour or two, the pupils could be transferred, with proper certificates of residence and moral conduct, to pass the literary ordeal for their degree of B.A., and then receive, by favour of the University, (the only favour asked) the honour which shall qualify them for ordination at the hands of their respective Bishops.

Oxford would be proud of scions from her parent stock planted at Lichfield, Worcester, Gloucester, Hereford, Bristol, Wells, Salisbury; Cambridge, at Ely, Norwich, Peterborough, and Lincoln;—where Collegiate bodies might flourish under the wing of the venerable structures, which, with their many hallowing associations, should inspire all sober, healthy, and pure Church feelings; and where the system, both of expense and social habits, might from the beginning, be shaped anew to meet the new wants. Let the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, as by Act of Parliament they are empowered to do, favour and facilitate the re-endowment of two *suspended* canonries, at each of these now-crippled establishments; and let it be seen what may be done by the active services of such men governing under the supreme presidency of the Dean, in each city, the one a School of 100 boys, the other a College of 60 young men, into whom these boys at a proper age and with suitable qualifications have been drafted, and from whom they go forth to serve the curacies of the diocese where they have

been nurtured and maintained from 10 to 22 years of age. Let the decencies, if not the splendour, of the Cathedral service and Choral worship be restored where we are now threatened with all the symptoms of early decay. And if the scheme receives encouragement or invites open discussion, I shall be ready to produce incontrovertible calculations in details of expense by which it may appear that an average sum of 90% or 100% (between the ages of 10 and 22,) would meet all the exigencies of the case.* The north of England is, or may be provided for by Durham; Wales by St. David's; let Canterbury, Rochester, and Chichester, do their duty by our colonies, and the only localities that remain, would be the south and midland counties, for which I think I have shewn how you may provide an annual supply of some 300 candidates for Holy Orders, trained from childhood *almost under the very eyes of their Bishops*, and a constant supply of education and instruction for about 1800 meritorious youths.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C.

The following letter appeared in the "Herald," from a College Tutor, in answer to the foregoing.

To the Editor of the Oxford Herald.

SIR,—Your correspondent C. has pointed to many of the disadvantages of our present Collegiate system, and has undoubtedly indicated the only method by which they can be effectually remedied, namely, by the private efforts of the Heads of different Houses, assisted by their Tutors, and not by legislative measures, whether external or internal. His remarks upon the propriety of giving the Undergraduate every comfort within the walls of his College, and every means of exercising a moderate hospitality, I think are excellent. I wish, however, he would enter a little more into detail as to

* I may here state at once, for the satisfaction of some, that I put the boy from 10 to 18 at £60; the young man from 18 to 22, at £120.

the manner in which all this must be effected. The change must be considerable ;—new servants, not to say new officers, must be appointed in every College, if we are to undertake to supply all the wants of our younger members. If we could effect this, if all the accounts of necessities were thus included in the term's Battel-bill, much of the evil might be saved. But there is one great difficulty in the way, and it consists in the unwillingness which I know young men feel to having their expenses looked into by the eyes of the authorities set over them here. They do not look upon us *in loco parentis*, but they do look upon us as awful, and, I fear, as severe watchers for every act of extravagance and error. I do not apprehend that they bring this from home so much as from school ; but wherever it commences, we know that it is next to impossible to obtain the perfect confidence of our pupils,—that confidence which will bring them to us when the first step of error has been taken, and there is room for perfect recovery. Till this is overcome all efforts at reform will fail. I believe that the greatest change which we require, is a change in the view taken of the relation between Tutor and Pupil, and both must bear a part in it. We must approximate to each other ; and as we do this, so shall we find all obstacles disappear, which impede the removal of the besetting evils of the plan. They, then, must have a freedom of action, or they cannot learn to act for themselves ;—if they would, or if they could make us their *friends*, we might be their guides, leaving them still their independency. The College Tutor is in many respects in an anomalous position ; he is neither what a Professor, nor what a Tutor originally was. He must, to a great extent, endeavour to fulfil the duties of both, and most men's powers fail beneath the task. I suspect that your correspondent is well aware of this, and I am inclined to think that our views of the remedy to be applied are not dissimilar, and I only entreat him to speak out. If he will point out in detail the financial measures which he would propose, I for one shall feel deeply obliged to him. And if he does not meet what I believe to be not only my own peculiar difficulty, but that of

many, I would willingly meet him in your columns, and suggest any thing supplemental.

I am, &c. &c.

A COLLEGE TUTOR.

LETTER, No. 2.

To the Editor of the Oxford Herald.

SIR,—I readily accept the invitation of your correspondent, “A College Tutor,” to renew the subject of School and University Expenses, if I may so term it, (for, in fact, they are as closely united as are the habits of a youth from fifteen to eighteen to those which follow him from eighteen to twenty-one,) though I own to you that the nature as well as the vastness of the subject begins to appal me when I consider all its bearings.

My first observation is, that after all, the question is a *moral* much more than a *financial* question; that at least a grievous moral defect in our institutions has to be corrected before we reach the less momentous one of mere expenses, and that the remedies which we may apply, with the effects which we may anticipate, must begin from very small beginnings, and be necessarily very slow as well as gradual in their progress.

The moral defect to which I allude is the disordered state of the relations of *parental and filial duty*, arising out of the growing indulgence and apathy of the times in which we live, and still more perhaps out of the conceit and self-satisfaction with which in these boasted days of improvement we view all the steps we have gained apparently over our forefathers’ heads. The last thirty years of peace have tended much to facilitate many of the details of learning and scholarship, owing more, I verily believe, to our intercourse with the Continent, and improved means of access to criticism in the study of languages, and to the analytical system in Mathematics, than to any increased vigour of the mind or kindled warmth of the heart.

The immediate effect on the parent is a sensation of delight

and surprise at the relative advancement (as compared with himself at the same age) of his offspring in the several branches of education. Delight and surprise ripen into pride and conceit, and then leap into a judicial blindness to all *errors of conduct* terminating in a soreness and resentment which would baffle all the honest and well-intentioned endeavours to induce a return to parental authority, whether exhibited in the advice of inspired Solomon, or the practical maxims of an Aristotle.

The root of the evil is planted in *wayward, indulged, spoiled* childhood, and the almost universal resistance of the parental feelings to all coercion and restraint of childish conceits and passions. The old Public School system, however liable to abuse and corruption, was an admirable instrument in practice to the correction of these nascent evils. I do not allude so much to the rod of the pedagogue as to the system of *fagging*, which levelled down the conceits, while it regulated the temper, but which is now almost every where scouted since parents have found, *through the mechanism of Proprietary Schools*, the means of getting practically into their own hands, the direction of their children, by insuring a control over their Preceptors, with a right to internal interference, hostile, if not fatal, to all early acquired habits of subordination, discipline, and mutual confidence. Trained up under a system such as this, wherein he has been accustomed daily and hourly to hear freely called to account and censure, all the rules and practices of his preceptors, how is it to be wondered that the young man at College begins to ridicule and despise the new authority which has no longer even the semblance of physical power to control him?

At this moment steps in a lax practice of the College authorities to remove or even shake which, will be doing much for one letter, if I may dare to hope that I shall reach the eyes of any competent or responsible authority. At the very moment when resolutions of strict economy, honesty, and order, *ought to be*, fresh in the mind of the novitiate, a bill is presented to him for certain expenses of College living, and (worse still) of College tuition, before he has seen even his

College tutor, incurred during the two terms of which the University laws take no notice. The first act of apparent overcharge on the young Tyro, comes armed with all the authority of College sanction, and the first money drawn from his pocket goes apparently to the coffers of his future friend and adviser. I am well aware of all that may be said in reply—that it is a mere matter of *arrangement*, not of extravagant *expense*, but I answer that you cannot expect honesty and openness on one side, while you entertain disguise and fiction on the other. I answer that you do by a most feeble and unnecessary process at once often disgust the parent and discourage the Undergraduate, rather (I had said,) encourage him to look with suspicion and distrust on all your future movements. Let all College bills be as *open and honest as the day*. Let there be clearly a *quid pro quo*, no unintelligible expressions, no *fictitious terms*, and let the way be open to enable the parent to *start* his son free of all arrears, however trifling, and all obligations however apparent.

The question of *Caution Money*, Room Rents, and *Thirds of Rooms*, as they are generally termed, will occupy my next letter, if I shall have gone thus far without giving offence. Other points of detail will follow in order, for in truth each one seems to deserve a separate consideration.

I have not written thus far, I trust, without writing enough to prove to your readers as well as to yourself, that I am an Oxford man, deeply tinctured with love and gratitude to my Alma Mater, and with an instinctive respect for her organized authorities. “A College Tutor” describes very fairly the practice of tuition as I found it in my own Society, but I trace every evil perhaps a *little further back* than he does. I want to set things right in childhood, not at school, or rather in childhood with a view to school; and I wish the University and the College to enter on their solemn and *parental duties* with clean hands, on the FIRST day, not at the end of the first or second term of residence. A wide but very necessary reform in regard to College Servants, Oxford Tradesmen, and the too often begrudged liberty of residing in College during the vacations, (so peculiarly valuable to the poor student,) are

facts which are ready to ooze out at my fingers' ends—but I have trespassed already too long on you,

And am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C.

LETTER, No. 3.

To the Editor of the Oxford Herald.

SIR,—The question of *Caution Money* has always appeared to me fit for a treatment similar to that with which I have assailed the payment enforced for Terms during which the Undergraduate with full licence is non-resident. *Caution Money* is perfectly defensible in *principle*—as would be a very considerable augmentation of Tuition Fees ; but it is highly objectionable in *details*—in the mode in which it is imposed—the irregularity of its amount, and, above all, *the uncertainty of its final disposition*. It is a system for which, moreover, I trust to shew, as in the former case, that an easy, safe, and highly desirable substitute may be found, and one which will tend as much to confirm the whole moral principle of the desired University Reform, as the original plan weakens and destroys the present confidence in the existing system.

Caution Money is demanded as a guarantee against the wanton destruction of College property—a defalcation in the means of the contributor to discharge obligations incurred before the period of terminal payments comes round, and a security in some degree at least of pecuniary solvency for all other lawful debts to be incurred. I have never heard any other grounds stated for this charge, and I am content to allow the perfect sufficiency of these in default of better ones ; but why such inequality, whether real or apparent, between the amount of *Caution Money* demanded for objects nearly, if not exactly, the same in all Colleges ? In my own the payment was 10*l.* 10*s.* I have before me the letter of a Head of a College requiring *thirty guineas* to be paid down “as *Caution*” on the matriculation of an Undergraduate. This dispa-

rity is so vast, that I am inclined very much to adopt the word *apparent* in mentioning the inequality, and to conclude (what I know to be partly the case) that Caution Money sometimes includes certain Entrance Fees for Tuition and College Lectures, which in other Colleges are set down as distinct charges, scarcely to be confounded with the properly so called *Caution Money*.

But if this surmise be correct—*cui bono?* Why mystify, when all ought to be as clear as the noon-day? If the charge must continue under the existing name and form, let it either be a clear or an uniform charge, and if possible *both*; but by far the worst remains behind. The charge for Caution Money is almost invariably regarded as one which rests on the same principle, and has the same object in view as the charge so industriously made in private Boarding Schools, particularly those for young ladies, of a silver spoon and fork expected of each new inmate—in other words (I regret to use the term) an underhand, but convenient mode of increasing the College plate. The charge is false, not to say monstrous; but it is a *general* charge, and must rest in some few cases on grounds too good. In the College to which I myself belonged, the return of the Caution Money, when mentioned, I do not say demanded, was as much a matter of course, and as readily and simply granted as the receipt for the last quarter's Battels; but in many cases we hear it *hinted*, that either it is not usual to take back the Caution Money, or that the Caution Money, if left, is appropriated to College purposes of ornament and display. Be the case as it may, this payment of money has as bad a name as almost any charge under the express sanction of College Authorities, and it is one to the correction of which I fondly hope that the University Authorities will at once promptly and cheerfully address themselves. Substitute for it the *pre-payment* (we thank the penny post and Mr. Rowland Hill for this word) of the *full terminal expenses* for *board and tuition*—items proclaiming at once as a grand principle the necessity of *prompt payment* and *avoidance* of all *credit*, and let the regular receipt for such pre-payment carry at once plain and clear conviction that there is nothing

underhand—no sinister views of *after peculation*—such as the aggrieved parent and the extravagant Undergraduate are at present glad to lay hold of as examples of loose dealing. If the Heads of Colleges, collectively or individually, are to apply themselves at all to the correction of abuses, it must be in some such way as I here respectfully recommend, by lopping off all the grounds of complaint which need a laboured explanation. I am quite aware that Caution Money, and the payment of tuition during non-residence, are DEFENSIBLE; but they are no more—they are rarely defended—still more rarely understood, even when defended; and it were better to cut them off root and branch, and then we are ready to proceed, one by one, to other grievances and evils of the same nature, till we shall enable our beloved Alma Mater to come into Court with clean hands, and make that just counter-demand on all the Parents and Guardians in the land, which, if it meets the due reply, shall, we sanguinely hope, remove all slur and suspicion from an Academical course.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C.

LETTER, No. 4.

To the Editor of the Oxford Herald.

SIR,—The danger of all money transactions between the nearest relatives and the most intimate friends, as tending to shake confidence, if no worse, and to beget irregularity of accounts, is true and striking, nearly to a proverb. With what care, therefore, should all College authorities, in the exercise of their paternal control over the Undergraduates, desire to throw their shield over any weak part of the financial system which is at present open to such serious objections! and so, I doubt not, they will gladly do, particularly if they find it can be done without any new legislative measures, or any novelty in the principle of supervision and government. Innumerable cases of hardship and of gross extravagance now take place

under the prevailing folly or mania (it may be called) for the sumptuous decoration of rooms, with all the appliances to luxury and indolence which might well deter the prudent and cautious parent in the views with which he chooses the place of residence for his son during the critical three years between eighteen and twenty-one.

Let the College Bursar, Manciple, or some other such officer, undertake, in the name and under the authority of the College, all the substantial and decorative repairs of each set of rooms—put the same into the hands, by contract, of some respectable upholsterer, who shall fix for rent a valuation of the rooms, at so much per annum, payable by each new incomer *to the College*, without the slightest reference to the taste or outlay of his predecessor. In short, abolish *Thirds* altogether, in name and reality. I would not *prohibit* each tenant of his rooms from the addition of such peculiar comforts or ornaments as may tend to give him a feeling of value in his rooms as a *home*, while he occupies them, but let him *take or send away* all such additions before his successor is even appointed, so that no feeling of delicacy may intervene. Many a young man not only pays extravagantly for that on which he really sets no value, and which, in fact, tends to his injury rather than to his benefit, but by being called upon at once to contract a large debt which he cannot defray out of his annual allowance, is thereby encouraged to believe *that debt in some shape or other is unavoidable, and is part of the College system*. I here propose as a remedy, that measure which is within the reach of all, and which each Head of a College may adopt for himself, and I recommend it as a measure not of cheapness and detail, but as one of *economy* and principle—distinguishing economy from mere cheapness—and asserting as a principle the object of avoiding all money dealings between young men themselves, and particularly such dealings as can be carried on only by credit. I further venture to urge that Private tuition be put like Public tuition, into the class of regular College expenses, which are payable through the regular College officer. Private tuition, as a system of *cramming*, is odious and injurious ; as an instrument of moral

government in the hands of each Head of a College, employing trusty instruments, and exercising vigilance enough to prevent all tuition, *sub rosa*, as it is now frequently practised, would be very valuable. To complete this part of reform as a fiscal measure, each Public Tutor should be paid a fee considerably higher than at present, and trusted with fewer pupils. I have known a highly conscientious Tutor with thirty-eight pupils, who paid him each at the rate of about 16*l.* a-year, one-third of whom, for the want of that individual superintendence which is so much needed in moral government, had recourse to a Private Tutor, in or out of College, to whom they paid 50*l.* a-year more. Let Cocker be called in to prove how ruinous and expensive such a system is, and how easily it might have been avoided by reducing the Tutor to twenty pupils, who paid 30*l.* a-piece, a sum which few would grudge for all the varied ends which might be gained by such a change.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your humble servant,

C.

LETTER, No. 5.

To the Editor of the Oxford Herald.

SIR,—I could never see why any College Buttery, Cellar, and Kitchen, might not with ease be made equal to all the requirements of the most efficient and best ordered coffee-house, or rather club-house, in London. The localities are favourable, and the secretary of the University Club, or (better still perhaps) one of the chiefs of the Commissariat department from the Horse-Guards, would settle all your details, and put your whole scheme in wholesome action within a fortnight. Let the Manciple lay in a store for a year's consumption of the best coals to be had, and retail them at wholesale ready money prices—and let the Port and Sherry of the College Cellar enjoy the same reputation as the audit ale of certain Colleges in the Sister University. I should be a great stickler for the quality

of every article provided, whether from larder or cellar—that it be notoriously the *best*—such as no private dealer or tradesman could (why should he?) rival in excellence of quality or moderateness of cost; for, remember, we are on a system of pre-paid bills, or at least on an estimate of terminal expenses, roughly made and commuted from caution-money. With such a provision I see no hardship in rigidly shutting all College-gates against all the Pastry-Cooks' Wares which throng those College-gates every Sunday morning—disputing entrance, or exit with the Vice-Chancellor's Bèdels on their way to the University Sermon (and the truthfulness of this picture will be recognised by many), the chosen day and hour for a vast majority of these luxurious entertainments. I am afraid to name the sums which I have heard to accumulate on the books of certain confectioners for this mere article of Sunday breakfasts. One Confectioner is known to have boasted of booking upwards of £50 on a Sunday morning before twelve o'clock! but be they in each individual case, small or large, they are still *BILLS—unpaid bills*, which grow often to their goodly amount during two or three years neglected demand for repayment—to the infinite detriment of the honest tradesman, whom, I should grieve to disallow in the fair town of Oxford—and to the still more serious relaxation of moral principle in the young and heedless creditor. All his engagements of this sort should, without any rigid censure or espionage, simply be thrown into *College Bills*, which should be presented the last day of Term to the Undergraduate, and the same day's post carry a duplicate to his Parent or Guardian, from *whom should return, by a fixed immutable law, the receipt of their payment into the College Bankers, as the only testimonial which should open the Undergraduate's rooms again to him on the first day of the following Term.* Thus Credit for all the necessary expenses, and even venial indulgences of the Academical youth should by one simple *stroke of the pen* be for ever expunged from the catalogue of possible abuses and complaints against an Oxford career.

I am spared many details of such a system by your considerate kindness in forwarding to me the printed scheme of

one at least of your most zealous and judicious Heads of Houses,—to whom I can do no less than tender by anticipation my sincere thanks, and warmest wishes, for success in a scheme which I think will be followed by the blessings of hundreds of Parents, and the rising reputation of his own Society. This scheme is very full of particular viands to gratify the palate, such as to shew that luxury in meals has not diminished since my own Undergraduate days. When our veteran and gallant Chancellor lately addressed the word of admonition to the young officers in military corps, and recommended them to lay aside the too frequent use of cigars, as adapted only to youths at College, I much wished that his eloquence and parental reasoning had been turned the other way,—that he had doffed the Field Marshal's and donned the Chancellor's Cap, if it were only to urge upon our Reverend Governors—*bellum internecinum* against the noxious weed, which is the fruitful parent of all low, intoxicating, ungentelemanly habits; and was certainly thirty years ago not known beyond the range of the Angel or the Star booking offices—but let so much be *en passant*.

All other precautions on the head of expense that I can suggest, must only proceed from an improved system of mutual confidence, on the one hand, between the zealous Head of a College and the Parent, on the other, between the Tutor and the Tyro,—the latter would be easier to establish (*crede experto*) than the former. So many Parents know *so little*—are naturally and laudably so anxious, and yet so *weak and fussy*, that they throw themselves into the hands of any volunteer adviser, and again and again undo all the good they have once essayed to do. Nor can the Head of the College meet him with any other arms than those of complaint and patience with occasional firmness in severing, from his flock, *decidedly* and *irrevocably*, the vicious and false. These are the two unmanageable characters who would however rarely find their way into College, or at least, make a brief stay there, if I may yet in one concluding letter be allowed to advert to the Academical system in the details of education.

I am, yours,

C.

LETTER 6.

To the Editor of the Oxford Herald.

SIR,—In reviewing the details of domestic reform, as set forth and recommended in my former Letters, I find the only omission relates to the College servants, who should be more strictly such than at present they are. Servants, I say, of the College, receiving pay, owing responsibility, and, if it be possible, bearing the livery of the College; but in no instances allowed, under a threat of instant expulsion, to receive fees or perquisites from their young masters; who, on the other hand, in their own protection, would have always a right of complaint to the Tutors.

How trusty and respectable such servants *should* be!—domesticated, if possible, under the College roof, and owing all possible submission and duty to the Head of the College, I need not here enlarge. Their duties defined—their hours of duty assigned—their entire fidelity to the great ends of security, comfort, and discipline,—are all details which will enter more easily the heads of my Academical Readers than they can flow clearly from my pen; and I only here allude to them as the last link which should connect the chain of Academical order and improvement.

The Educational Course is as wide a subject as the domestic question; and yet I must discuss it under a very few brief heads, and, perhaps, rather bold and adventurous propositions.

The standard of a First Class is *too high* and precarious from the frequent change of Examiners, with fluctuating tastes, in an eager pursuit after which much of the Candidate's time is taken up, instead of the laborious routine of a certain set of the purest Classical Works, which have to be studied with infinite exactness and labour. Return to *books read*—to *vivâ examinations*, preceding, not following, questions on critical scholarship—and enlarge your First Class to meet the certainly augmented disposition to study, and facilities for study

which under the present system meet only heart-burning and disappointment.

I see only one clear way to this object, which is that of a more permanent Board of Examiners, who shall be so well repaid for their arduous and important labours, that they neither need nor are qualified to take (at least) private pupils. So acting, you will keep up steadily the flow and spirit of steady diligence during the three or four years of the Academical course. Eminent scholarship will find its ample reward in the Chancellor's Prizes, and numerous Scholarships recently established; while the great mass—the LUMP—will be learned to the utmost extent of which an University system is capable.

But while I contend for lowering the standard of the First Class, I as eagerly recommend raising that of *admission*, or, at least, of *rendering it more regular and uniform*. I would place Responsions, or something a little more brief and simple, at the portals of the University progress, and not at its centre. Thus acting, you will confer infinite advantages on the great Schools of the country, where Masters will be doubly armed against sending to you unworthy subjects, and in favour of the greatest possible quantity of diligence and discipline in the Scholastic career.

If I have omitted some points of importance, I am equally sensible of having dwelt on others at such length as may appear to many to have been already anticipated by recent improvements; but let my original object be borne in mind, which is to supersede the necessity of certain improvements or additions printed in the primary Address of certain distinguished individuals. I am still as favourable as ever to the institution of Collegiate Establishments in our Cathedral cities, which may furnish a guarantee of economy by their capability of being adapted to all *new* notions and schemes of lowering the price of living, and, at the same time, furnish a guarantee of efficiency and learning, by adhering to the old land-marks of our University system. I would have no M.A. or B.A. of a lower caste in learning, and yet would be glad to spread over the land hard-working Curates of moderate means and equally

moderate views; but, whether in the ancient Universities, or any such new Collegiate institution, they are ultimately the *Fathers and Guardians* of youth to whom I make the last solemn appeal, and require them to set their own *Houses* in order before they dare to hope that they shall effectually reform our *Schools and Colleges*; and that they bear ever before their eyes and at their hearts the example of Him whose public career did not even begin till (as far as we know) he had veiled the glories of his eternal Godhead, in thirty long years of silent* and dutiful subjection to his earthly parents; those years which we so fondly devote to feverish ambition, care, and preparation, *not* for eternity, but, as it too often appears to superficial view, to three score years of error and infirmity.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C.

* And oh! how significant on such a subject this very silence of Scripture contrasted with all the *developments* and *meditations* of silly man.









